

Angola Prison. The couple bought their first home and settled in Slidell, Louisiana, in the summer of 1967, and their daughter Sheryl was born in New Orleans later that fall. Their son David was born in Slidell in the summer of 1970, just a few weeks before Charlie was transferred from New Orleans to Shell's Head Office in New York City.

In 1971, when Shell's Head Office Engineering was moved to Houston, the Wallaces were thrilled to return home to Texas. After 35 years of service to Shell, Charlie "retired" in 1999. However, Charlie immediately started his own full-time chemical engineering consulting business. His career has presented him with opportunities for international travel to Canada, The Netherlands, France, Hungary [when it was still behind the Iron Curtain,] China, England, Scotland, and Italy.

Marilyn has always been a supportive wife and mother and a committed homemaker. She is an "independent agent of good" who dedicates her time, resources, creativity, and advocacy to improve the quality of life for a diverse array of people including the seriously ill, the disadvantaged, the disabled, and the elderly.

Their children describe Charlie and Marilyn as fiercely committed to each other and extremely compatible. They enjoy travel, the outdoors, fitness and nutrition, and music. It is an honor to represent such decent, hardworking, civic-minded Texans. I want to congratulate Charlie and Marilyn on their 50th anniversary and may God bless them with many more years together. They are truly an outstanding couple from the second district of Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE WASHINGTON HIGH SCHOOL WILDCATS AS THE 2013 SWIMMING CLASS 2A FLORIDA IDA CHAMPIONS

HON. JEFF MILLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. MILLER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to congratulate the First Congressional District of Florida's Booker T. Washington High School Wildcats for winning their first Class 2A State Swimming Championship. This victory marks the swim team's first state title, as well as, the first title for a girls swim team in Escambia or Santa Rosa counties.

Truly an outstanding team effort put forth by the swimmers, under the leadership of their talented coach, Ms. Megan Oberholtzer, there is no question that several performances contributed to the overall title. Jacquie Kinman and Chloe Berens swam the 100-yard breaststroke, which ended up putting the team in first place as they entered the final event. Brooke Ferrara, Miss Kinman, Rachel Martin and Brianna Mount swam the 400-yard freestyle relay in the All-American consideration time of 3:31.98. Miss Ferrara and Miss Kinman also joined Sophia Diagne and Abigail Goram in the 200 medley relay winning with the All-American consideration time of 1:47.16, and Miss Mount, Miss Martin, Miss Goram, and Miss Kinman won the 200 freestyle at 1:36.57, again, an All-American consideration time. Exceptional individual swimming achievements included Miss Mount's second place finish in the 50 freestyle in 23.57 sec-

onds and Miss Kinman's second-place finish in the 100 breaststroke in 1:04.77, both All-American consideration times. Finally, Miss Ferrara finished third in the 50 freestyle and 100-yard backstroke with All-American consideration times, 23.68 and 56.56 respectively.

The Washington Wildcats ended their undefeated season with a final team score of 233, triumphing over the second-placed team by 17 points. I commend the team for challenging themselves and setting an example for their fellow students and youth in our community.

Washington High's victory at the 2013 Florida Swim Team Championships is a testament to the commitment and dedication of all the members of the team, and it is a great reflection on the entire Washington High and Northwest Florida community. On behalf of the United States Congress, my wife Vicki and I congratulate the Wildcats for this extraordinary accomplishment and wish them continued success.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS RESOLUTION, 2014

SPEECH OF

HON. GERALD E. CONNOLLY

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 12, 2013

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, the bipartisan budget agreement represents some modicum of compromise, something that has been sorely lacking in this Congress. It is by no means a perfect deal, but both sides have made concessions so that we may avert a repeat of the disastrous government shutdown and begin to restore some of the draconian cuts caused by sequestration.

For me, and many of my colleagues, this will be a "hold-your-nose and vote yes vote," given our disappointment and concern about yet another cut in benefits for new federal employees. No other group in America has been asked to make the same sacrifices as the dedicated men and women of our federal workforce.

Federal employees already have contributed \$114 billion to deficit reduction as a result of a 3-year pay freeze, a reduction in retirement benefits for new hires, and lost pay as a result of furloughs. Thankfully, we were able to beat back the worst proposals to further encroach on their benefits, and I believe this bipartisan deal will minimize the prospect of additional furloughs by replacing some of the sequestration cuts.

Nonetheless, I will continue fighting for our federal employees until they receive the respect they deserve and have earned. I will continue to push back against those in Congress who unfairly impugn federal workers for partisan political gain. And I will continue to protect the rights and dignity of federal workers and the valuable public service they provide to the nation.

For Northern Virginia, which was disproportionately affected by sequestration, this agreement for the first time will replace a portion of those indiscriminate cuts with a more balanced approach. It will actually increase federal investments in research, innovation, and transportation. That in turn will help unleash business investments, which have lagged due

to a sense of uncertainty fueled by the political brinksmanship in Congress.

No one got everything they wanted out of this deal. Indeed, I along with many of my colleagues would have preferred to see an extension of long-term unemployment benefits, which has a very direct and significant benefit on more than 1 million families and our national and local economies. Every dollar of assistance generates \$1.64 in economic activity in the community. Sadly, it was not addressed here, but we will continue to push the Speaker to bring it up separately to help those still struggling to find work.

Congress faces many more serious challenges in the coming weeks and months, including the need to raise the debt ceiling, renew long-term transportation funding, and reform our broken immigration system. Perhaps this bipartisan breakthrough will provide the model we need to avoid the "my-way-or-the-highway" shutdown brand of politics that has characterized the Republican philosophy of governance for the last three years.

ANNOUNCING RECIPIENTS OF THE 2013 CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR THE THIRD DISTRICT OF TEXAS

HON. SAM JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 16, 2013

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor fourteen distinguished military veterans, community servants, and American patriots who call the Third District of Texas home. All faithfully answered the call of duty and placed service above self for the sake of our great nation. Each one leaves a legacy to be remembered, for future generations to follow, a legacy of bravery, loyalty, dedication, and sacrifice. For their selfless service, bold leadership, and undying commitment for their neighbor and nation, the following individual has been selected as a recipient of the third annual Congressional Veteran Commendation:

Justin Arsenault served in the United States Army from 2003 to 2006. After enlisting, he served one tour of duty in Iraq from 2005 to 2006. During his tour, Mr. Arsenault was his unit's primary pilot for the Raven Unmanned Aerial Vehicle where he was to utilize the Raven to clear supply routes. During one particular mission, he used the Raven to maintain an aerial perimeter for troops whose vehicle had been disabled by a roadside explosive device. He continued to monitor the area for enemy combatants until ground support could reach the disabled troops and escort them to safety. For his acts of bravery and courage during this mission, Mr. Arsenault received a second Army Commendation Medal.

Since returning home, Mr. Arsenault has continued to faithfully uphold his calling to defend, protect, and serve his fellow Americans across the community. In 2007, he began his service as a police officer in Allen, Texas where he currently serves as a Field Training Officer. If all of that is not enough, off duty he volunteers his time for the Carry the Load campaign, which is held over Memorial Day weekend every year. To him, Memorial Day ought to be more than cookouts and retail